

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 10, 2007, the Examiner allowed claims 11- 16, objected to claims 4-10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,994,573 (Tanaka, et al.). By the present amendment, claims 1, 5 and 6 are amended and claim 4 canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 5-16 are now pending in this application.

It should be noted that the form PTOL-326 of the Office Action specified that claims 4-10 were objected to but the text of the Office Action specifies that claims 4-8 are objected to. Since there is no other mention of claims 9 and 10 in the text of the Office Action, Applicants believe that the Examiner's intent was to object to claims 4-10. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended claim1 to include the limitations of claim 4 to which the Examiner objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if re-written in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants also amended claim 6 to include the limitations of original claim 1. Since the Examiner objected to claim 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if re-written in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicants' respectfully submit that claim 6 and its dependent claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection and submit that each of the claims is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation would facilitate the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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